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THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF AERJ.

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AN ANALYSIS WAS GIVEN OF THE INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE OF THE "AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL" (AERJ) AS REVEALED BY THE CONTENT OF THE 80 ARTICLES THAT APPEARED IN THE 12 ISSUES OF ITS FIRST 3 YEARS OF PUBLICATION. IN STATISTICAL TERMS, THE INVESTIGATOR PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF THE FOLLOWING ANALYSES--THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES CITING REFERENCES, THE NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO AN AUTHOR'S OWN PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND TO AN AUTHOR'S OWN PUBLISHED BOOKS, THE NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO BOOKS BY OTHER AUTHORS, THE NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO AN AUTHOR'S UNPUBLISHED ARTICLES AND TO OTHER UNPUBLISHED ARTICLES, THE JOURNALS MOST FREQUENTLY REFERENCED, THE PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE AUTHORS, AND THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES BY ONE, TWO, OR THREE AUTHORS. AN ANALYSIS SHOWED THAT THE PERIODICAL MOST REFERENCED WAS THE "JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY*" WITH ABOUT 16 PERCENT OF THE REFERENCES. A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF OF THE ARTICLES HAD ONE AUTHOR, AND SIX OF THE 80 HAD THREE AUTHORS. OF THE 74 SENIOR AUTHORS, 88 PERCENT WERE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION. THE INVESTIGATOR SUGGESTED THAT THE AERJ IS IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH THE "JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY," AND OBSERVED THAT IN ITS FIRST 3 YEARS, AERJ HAD SERVED CHIEFLY AS A PUBLICATION OUTLET FOR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SPECIALISTS IN EDUCATIONAL MEASUREMENT. A CONDENSED VERSION OF THIS PAPER WAS PUBLISHED IN "EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER," VOLUME 16, NUMBER 4, JULY 1967. (AL)

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The First Three Years of AERJ

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The American Educational Research Association began its research quarterly, the American Educational Research Journal (AERJ), without linkages to past journals. Volume 1, Number 1 was dated January 1964. What were the intellectual ancestors of this new journal during its first three years? Perhaps we can infer some of these from the items cited by AERJ authors.

Excluding book reviews, there were 80 articles in the first 12 issues of AERJ. Two of these contained 0 references each and none contained 1, whereas one contained 68. The median number of references was 8.1, and the mean was 10.1.[1] The 10th percentile for the number of references was 2.8, and the 90th percentile was 17.5.

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*Assisted by Elizabeth Holstein and Rose Stanley. This study was carried out while the author was on leave from the University of Wisconsin.

[1]See J. Margolis, "Citation indexing and evaluation of scientific papers," Science, 10 March 1967 (No. 3767), 155, 1213-1219, who in lines 9-10 on page 1214 reports that "an average [scientific] paper carries approximately 15 references. . . ." Also see John A. Creager, "The use of publication citations in educational research," American Council on Education Research Reports, 1967, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. ii + 32.

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The median number of references to one's own published journal articles was 0.4, whereas the median number of references to journal articles authored by others was 3.5 (means 0.7 and 4.4, respectively, and both crude modes 0).

In 72 of the 80 articles the authors cited none of their own books, and in 8 they cited 1. The median number of books by others that were cited was 1.5 (mean 2.2, mode 1).

The median number of cited unpublished references by others per article was 0.55 (mean 1.1, mode 0), whereas the median number of own unpublished references cited was 0.23 (mean 0.5, mode 0).

The median number of cited book chapters written by others was .35 (mean 1.0, mode 0). For chapters written by the AERJ authors themselves the distribution was 73 0's, six 1's, and one 2.

Which published journals were referenced most frequently? As Table 1 shows, the Journal of Educational Psychology, published since

(To the printer: Please put Table 1 about here.)

1958 by the American Psychological Association, was first by far, with 65 references out of the total 404, or 16%, in 24 of the 80 articles. This supports my impression that AERJ is in direct competition with the Journal of Educational Psychology for a number of the best educational-research studies, just as AERA convention programs compete--quite favorably, it would appear--with the convention programs of APA's Division of Education Psychology.

Many of the other journals cited are strongly psychological or psychometric. It is hoped that, in the future, more reference will be

made to journals in such fields as anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, philosophy, political science, psychiatry, and sociology, because AERJ is not meant to be primarily psychological-psychometric.

Ninety-two different journals were cited in the 80 articles. Forty-six journals were referenced once each, and the other 46 were referenced 2-65 times each. One-fourth of the cited journals (i.e., 23 of them) were referenced 5 or more times each. The mean number of journal references per AERJ article was 404/80 = 5.05, which checks closely with the means of 0.7 + 4.4 = 5.1 that were listed in the third paragraph of this note.

AERJ, referenced just four times in its own first three volumes, in the future will be cited increasingly frequently therein, probably surpassing the Journal of Educational Psychology within a few years. AERJ couldn't be inbred at first. We trust that it won't become so later. Instead, its contributors should draw heavily on the published findings of the various disciplines relevant to educational research.

In which journals besides itself are AERJ articles being cited? It is still somewhat early for AERJ's influence to have become recorded in the references or footnotes of other journals, but within a year or two some of you may wish to examine the top journals of Table 1 and other journals to see which AERJ articles are cited where. In particular, how symmetrical with the Journal of Educational Psychology will the citation pattern become? With Educational and Psychological Measurement?

Authors of the Articles

Seventy-four persons were the senior authors of the 80 articles. Four of these individuals were senior authors of two articles each, and one (a man who received his Ph.D. degree in June of 1965 at the age of 24) was the senior author of three articles.

Six of the 80 articles had three authors, 30 had two, and 44 had 1. All of the triple authorships occurred in Volumes 2 and 3, and none in Volume 1, perhaps indicating a trend toward collaborative research.

What are the professional affiliations of the 74 senior authors? We checked their AERA, APA, and NCME affiliations in the 1966-67 Annual Directory of the American Educational Research Association, the 1966 Directory of the American Psychological Association, and pages 85-126 of the Spring 1966 (Vol. 3, No. 1) issue of the Journal of Educational Measurement. Twenty-four of the 74 senior authors were found to be members of all three associations, and 3 were found to be members of none of them. The other combinations of affiliations were as follows: AERA + APA, 18; AERA + NCME, 15; AERA only, 8; APA + NCME, 3; APA only, 3; and NCME only, 0.

Thus 65 of the 74 senior authors—88% of them—are AERA members, 48 (65%) are APA members, and 42 (57%) are NCME members. Even the three senior authors unaffiliated with any of the three associations are not historians, anthropologists, or other non-psychological researchers. One is an experimental psychologist in England. Another was a recent Ph.D.-degree recipient in educational guidance at the time

that he coauthored an article on vocational proferences with his major professor, who is an AERA-APA member. The third was writing about a practical educational topic ("The analysis of errors in the formation of manuscript letters by first-grade children").

It appears that AERJ in its first three years served chiefly as a publishing outlet for educational psychologists and specialists in educational measurement. Perhaps it will become more interdisciplinary during its second three years.

Table 1

Published Journals Cited in the 80 articles of Vols. 1-3 (1964-1966) of AERJ

Number of Times Referenced	Titles of Journals	Number of Journals
65	Journal of Educational Psychology	1
31	Educational and Psychological Measurement	1
25	Journal of Experimental Psychology	1
21	Journal of Educational Research	1
15	Psychological Review, Psychometrika	2
10	Journal of Applied Psychology	1
9	Journal of Psychology	1
8	American Psychologist, Elementary School Journal, Journal of Experimental Education, Personnel and Guidance Journal, Review of Educational Research	5
7	Biometrics, Journal of Teacher Education, School and Society	3
5	American Journal of Psychology, British Journal of Educational Psychology, Harvard Educational Review, Journal of Counseling Psychology, Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior	5
4	American Educational Research Journal, Biometrika, Child Development, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of Consulting Psychology, Journal of Programed Instruction, Psychological Monographs, Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, Science	9

(Table 1, continued.)

3	British Journal of Psychology, Journal of Clinical Psychology, Journal of Comparative and Psysiological Psychology, Journal of Social Psychology, Psychological Reports	5
2	American Journal of Sociology, College Board Review, Educational Administration and Supervision, General Psychology Monographs, Human Relations, Journal of General Psychology, Peabody Journal of Education, School Review, American Journal of Ophthalmology	9
1		46

Total number of journals cited 92

Total number of journal citations in the 80 AERJ articles, 404

Mean number of journal citations per AERJ article, 505